

## GREAT NEWS II: Changes

ROMANS 6 (P. 785)

Week of July 29, 2012

Message 5

## REVIEW:

- Paul is sold out to sharing the gospel and calling people to the obedience it prompts.
- Only the righteous avoid God's wrath (and no one is).
- Righteousness is given to those with faith.
- We stand in grace and confidently hope for eternal life.

## READ ROMANS 6:1 and 6:15

Have you ever been tempted to do something thinking, "God will forgive me?"

On Sunday, I listed a number of ways that Christians are no better than the world around us morally: Christians are sexually promiscuous, greedy, deceitful, vengeful; Christians get divorced; Christians ignore the Ten Commandments; etc. What do you think Paul would say about all that?

## READ ROMANS 6:1-14

How does baptism change a person?

What does it mean to "count yourself dead to sin"? Have you had any success doing that?

Paul seems to be telling the Romans, "Because God has changed who you are, you need to live into that change." How is that encouraging to you? How is it challenging?

## READ ROMANS 6:15-23

*In verse 16, it seems that Paul is saying righteousness is the result of obedience, but in chapter 5, it seemed to be a gift. Then, in verses 19-22, he seems to say that eternal life comes from holiness but in v. 23, eternal life is a gift. What's happening? Consider these charts:*

**Romans 1-5:**

Jesus' work => my faith => gift of righteousness => state of grace => eternal life

**Romans 6:1-14:**

Jesus' death => my baptism => dead to sin => alive to God

**Romans 6:15-23:**

Jesus' teaching => my obedience => righteousness => holiness => eternal life

Paul is simply expressing the gospel in three different ways. How do these parallel statements affect your understanding of the "gospel."

## TAKE IT HOME

What would Paul say to a Christian who hasn't been baptized? Who isn't obedient? Are there some sins that you are letting master you?

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